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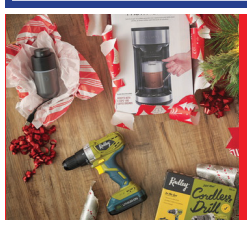

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Virtual Tree Lighting

Residents can tune in to watch the Christmas tree lighting in Algonquin Highlands. See page 3.

Travelling Vicariously

Photographer's collection of images takes viewers around the world. See page 4.

Village Christmas

Cultural centre hosts socially distanced holiday celebration in Minden. See page 10.

The Emmerson Dam is framed by a snow-covered bench following a snowstorm, which left behind several centimetres of accumulation on Monday, Nov. 25 in Haliburton. /DARREN LUM Staff

Marc and Cyndi Wilkens, with son Liam, are the new owners of Minden Mercantile & Feed Co. Inc., and are joined by daughter Cienna and employees Sheri Hullah, back left, and Madie Payne. /CHAD INGRAM Staff

New owners take reins at Minden Mercantile

CHAD INGRAM
County Life Staff

Marc and Cyndi Wilkens are excited about their purchase of Minden Mercantile & Feed Co. Inc. and getting to know the community.

The deal on the business at the intersection of Bobcaygeon and Deep Bay Roads closed in early November.

"We've been coming here as customers for years, and we'd been looking for a business to buy," Marc says.

The couple live south of Kinmount where they have a hobby farm, moving from the Newmarket area about eight years ago, and have two children – daughter Cienna and son Liam.

"What we love about the name Minden Mercantile, you look up the mercantile from days past, that's where the locals always went for all the things they needed, whether you needed sewing needles or feed for your cows," Marc says.

"It has such a history, just the word," says Cyndi.

They've been busy getting to know their customers, and have plans to expand the building, as well as product inventory.

"Over the past few weeks, I've been spending a lot of time talking to customers, understanding what they do, what makes them tick, why they are buying from here," Marc says. "Such a diverse group of people. They have such interesting stories."

One customer, for example, buys birdseed that she uses to make art.

"Everybody has a story," says Cyndi. Her own unique story includes a battle with necrotizing fasciitis, or flesh-eating disease, which led to the loss of her limbs nearly a decade ago. Cyndi has authored a book about her journey and is a motivational speaker, and the couple help families in crisis through their ministry, Shine On Missions.

The Wilkens also have backgrounds in business, Cyndi in product management and Marc in sales. Farming also runs in the family, with Marc's father a farmer and veterinarian.

They plan to add more products that complement homesteading, gardening and beekeeping.

"There's such an avid birdwatching community here," Marc says. "We want to expand what we offer there. We love animals, we love the outdoors, we love farming."

The couple is also excited to get to know residents of Minden, and commented on the village's beauty.

"We want to help drive traffic in downtown Minden," Marc says. "This is such a unique downtown community. I remember the first time coming here, driving and seeing the river right beside the road going right through the downtown, and I'm like, 'what a beautiful, majestic little town.'"

The Wilkens purchased Minden Mercantile from Kelly Pearce, who ran it for close to a decade.

"I want to express my thanks to all my lovely customers," Pearce told *County Life*. "We have the best customers in the county, and I'm going to miss them too. I hope they'll continue to support Marc and his family."

The Wilkens will be running the business along with employees Madie Payne, Sheri Hullah and Leanne Hunt.

County Life

The following inserts are being distributed with County Life this week:

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AH to host virtual Christmas tree lighting

CHAD INGRAM
County Life Staff

Algonquin Highlands residents will be able to tune into Zoom for a virtual Christmas tree lighting celebration featuring members of council and scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 9.

During a Nov. 19 meeting, councillors discussed what such an event might look like, and who would be invited to take part during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Normally, annual tree-lighting community celebrations take place in Oxtongue Lake and Dorset.

"Instead, we came up with a virtual event where we would like to be able to essentially host a tree-lighting, using [online conferencing app] Zoom," parks, rec and trails manager Chris Card told councillors. As Card explained, the idea would be to have tree lightings in Oxtongue Lake and Dorset, as well as Stanhope, featuring councillors in each of their wards, an address from the mayor, carol-singing led by a local musician, perhaps a visit from Santa Claus, etc.

Card said it was recommended that members of township advisory committees also be invited to physically attend the events, but that a wider public invitation to the community not take place.

"Admittedly, having a bunch of people in any location makes me a bit nervous given that we have worked so hard to not offer those opportunities,"said Mayor Carol Moffatt.

"There has been appetite at Oxtongue Lake for a reduced, socially distanced, COVID-responsible gathering during the tree lighting," said Ward 3 Councillor Jen Dailloux, adding the longstanding event is a highlight of the season for many residents.

"It's one of those opportunities where being COVID-responsible is possible," Dailloux said, making reference to the outdoor nature of the event and suggesting that attendees could arrive at scheduled, staggered times, making their way to hula hoops set out in the snow, indicating where to stand. "It's one of the few opportunities where an outdoor event might be possible, with in fact limited movement."

Deputy Mayor Liz Danielsen said that ultimately she couldn't support having groups of people assemble.

"We're seeing increasing numbers by the day," Danielsen said. "Haliburton County is extremely fortunate in remaining in a green zone [under the province's COVID-19 restrictions framework], and it's just this kind of activity that, no matter how carefully planned it is, when you gather a large number of people together ... there's so many risks associated."

"Personally, I just can't support a gathering at a time when the numbers are increasing so rapidly in Ontario," Danielsen said.

Numbers of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the province have been climbing toward 1,600 per day, while in the county, at press time, the total number of confirmed cases since the pandemic began is 27, 23 of them considered resolved.

"My concern with Councillor Dailloux's request is that we have to do the same thing in all three communities," Moffatt said, adding that Dorset and Stanhope were more populated than Oxtongue Lake. "The more that are involved in terms of public attendance, to me, just creates more logistical challenges for a smooth event."

Dailloux said there have been other events where pre-registration is required, and limits are put on the number of attendees. A children's Halloween party at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre last month worked in that fashion.

"We aren't allowing our committees to meet," said Danielsen, referencing the fact that township advisory committee meetings have been suspended since the pandemic began. "So if they can't meet for the business of council, how can we say that they can meet under other circumstances? Inside or outside, you know, I've got an issue with adding too many people."

Ultimately, after a lengthy conversation, it was decided that the event would basically include councillors and staff.

"I think it's the best way, given the circumstances," said Councillor Lisa Barry.

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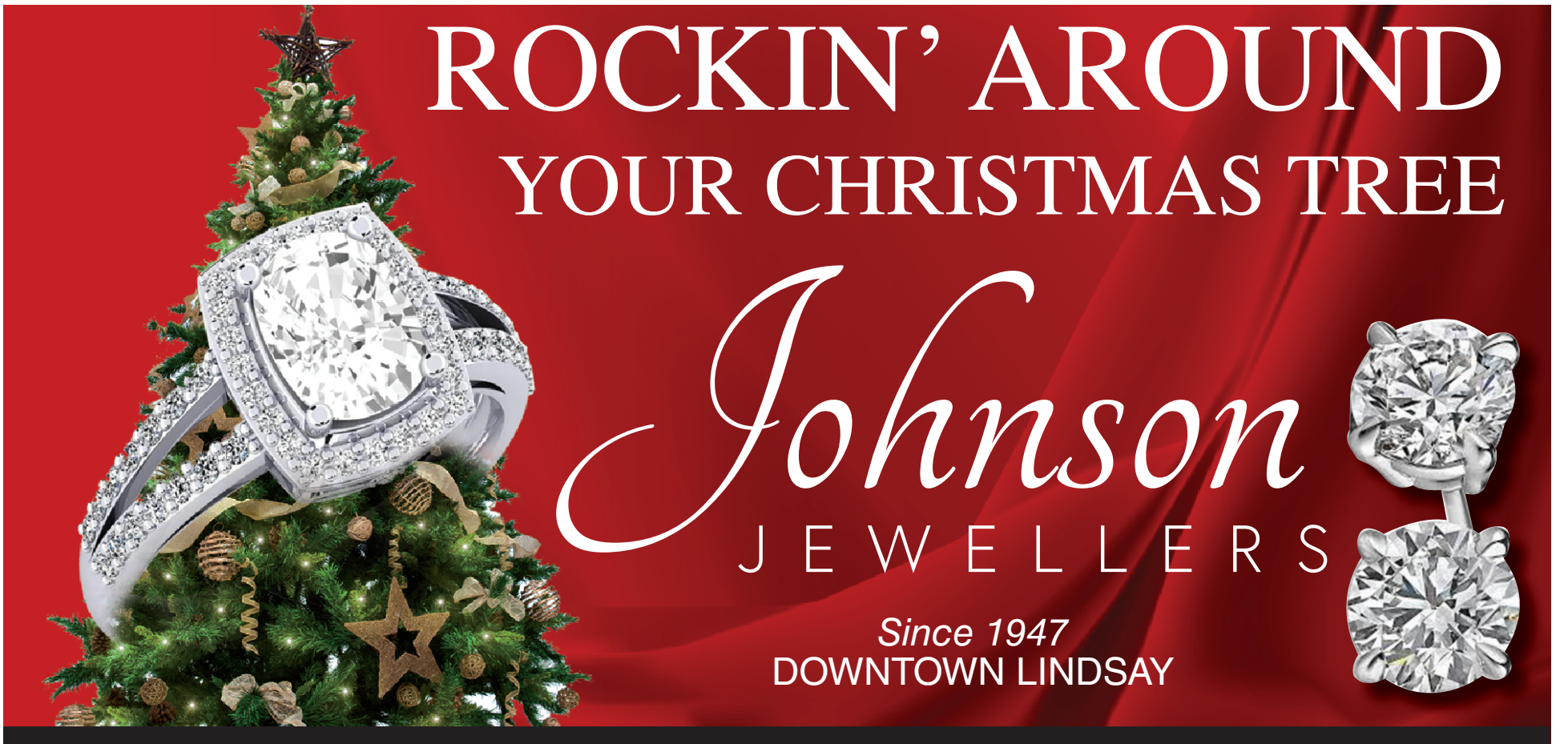

Bali, Indonesia - Religious ceremony at a Balinese temple. /Photo by Luke MacBride

Wadi Rum, Jordan - Looking at the 7 Pillars of Wisdom. /Photo by Luke MacBride

Exploring the world through the photographer's lens

JENN WATT
County Life Editor

Each image that Luke MacBride captures is like a fragment of his memory of a place – dark clouds descending over a beach in Kasoa, Ghana; a bright vista beaming through a window in Wadi Rum, Jordan; a child's wonder at a glowing sunrise over a lake in Minden – which over the years has developed into an extensive collection.

A school administrator with a passion for photography and travel, MacBride has lived abroad for much of his adult life, in New York City, Shanghai, Valencia, and now in Accra, Ghana, and visited at least 70 countries. All while documenting the places and people he encounters.

And each summer he returns to Canada and to the cottage on Kennisis Lake he's been visiting his whole life.

"My wife's family has a cottage on Horseshoe Lake Road and my grandparents got a cottage in 1940 on Lake Kennisis and I've been going since I was born. When I was a child I spent my whole summers up there and I've missed one summer I think since I've been overseas," MacBride said during a Zoom call from Accra.

The travel bug first bit when he was a university student, looking to explore. He took a year off school and spent half of that time backpacking across Europe from Paris through to Croatia, Greece and back.

"I lasted as long as my money lasted and I did odd jobs to try to stay longer," he said. "… That was the first time I really realized it's a big world out there and it inspired me to want to go more places. And after that I came home, finished up university and went straight to Manhattan."

In the last 17 years, MacBride has lived on four continents, spending anywhere from seven to four years in a given location and allocating free time to further travel.

"Sometimes I go for a two-week vaca-

see page 5

Luke MacBride, a lifelong cottager in the Haliburton Highlands, has travelled to 70 countries around the world, capturing his experiences through photography. /Photo submitted

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Travel reveals similarities between people

from page 4

tion. Sometimes I spend the summer taking two and a half months going across southeast Asia or across Europe or to Australia … it just kind of happens however I'm feeling," he said.

For the most part, his wife Alyson and daughter Pearl have been with him, but right now he's living solo in Ghana where he works as an assistant principal, while his family is back in Toronto. As with most everything during the coronavirus pandemic, MacBride's life has been impacted by travel restrictions and pandemic precautions.

After leaving on the last flight to Toronto from Ghana in March, he spent the bulk of 2020 in Minden and Haliburton, before recently returning to Africa.

"To get back to Ghana I had to quarantine in a hotel for two weeks. And I couldn't leave my hotel room. It was me and four walls for 14 days. … It was awful," he said.

During the time when he has been able to freely travel, he's been documenting much of what he sees, though he said he's selective: taking about 100 pictures a day in a new place.

"When you do it for so long, sometimes when I don't even have my camera, I see things and I think that would be perfect right there. It's literally like that in my head now after all these years," he said, adding that smartphones are now good enough that he no longer has to forfeit photo opportunities when he doesn't have his gear with him.

And then there are times when he's been in the right place at the right time and the perfect photo has presented itself.

One such photo came about when he was photographing a mother, daughter and some children playing in the water on a beach in Goa, India. The sun was setting and a dog came along, sitting itself perfectly in the foreground.

Delhi, India - A large Indian family exploring the Red Fort. / Photo by Luke MacBride

"I was about to take a picture of that and then I heard this noise and I just moved my eye and a guy was on a motorcycle flying down the beach and I didn't have time to change it [the camera] to [burst mode], I just got two and he went right by … I just thought that is so, so lucky I got that," he said.

His excursions will revolve around potential photos, but they're also about taking his experiences and finding a way to communicate them to the viewer. MacBride said he doesn't think he has a particular style and isn't trying to create a specific aesthetic, but there are commonalities in what he creates.

"I like to think that it shows that people are pretty similar. … I really believe that too. In all the different places I've been, everybody does want essentially the same kind of things. The vast majority of people want the same stuff, they just look different when they do it, or they speak differently when they do it," he said.

MacBride has exhibited his work in Toronto, Shanghai and soon in Accra. Currently, the best way to view his photography is online at www.lukemacbride.com or on Instagram @luke_macbride.

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Send your letters to the editor to mike@haliburtonpress.com. Letters must be signed and include a phone number.

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New directions

JENN WATT
Editor

I DISTINCTLY REMEMBER the day I drove up to Haliburton to interview for a reporter's position with the *Minden Times*. It was a warm, sunny day, not overly hot, but I had the air conditioning in my rental car on full blast to combat my pre-interview sweats. I was finishing up a contract in the city and desperately wanted to work in the country – in a place where you could see stars at night. I needn't have worried; the moment I walked into the front lobby of the *Haliburton Echo* building I was greeted by the friendliest welcome from Martha Perkins, then the editor of the *Echo* and *Times*.

After completing the interview and meeting the other staff, I walked out the front door and stood on the verandah overlooking Head Lake and thought to myself, "this is exactly where I want to be." Luckily for me, I got the job and spent two years working as a reporter for the *Times* and *Echo*.

Then in 2009, Martha and her significant other made a huge decision to leave the Highlands for new adventures in British Columbia. I was asked if I would step into the role of managing editor, a daunting challenge given the reputation for excellence at the papers. It was a nerve-wracking first year – or three – as I learned the ebb and flow of the job, but thanks to the support of the staff and the patience of the readers, I made it through.

The time since then has gone by incredibly quickly. I can recall only a tiny fraction of the news events from the last 11 years, but overwhelmingly I remember community spirit. At the root of so much in the Haliburton Highlands is an undercurrent of teamwork and compassion. It has been a pleasure to report on the many, many instances of true kindness exhibited by people living here.

It is that spirit that I will remember the most as I start on a new phase of my career. Earlier this fall, I decided the time was right to try something new and go back to school. While it was a difficult decision to make, I'm excited for the possibilities ahead of me, though it means I have to say goodbye to the many incredible people I've met and worked with over the years.

Starting next week, two experienced journalists will be taking the editorial reins at the *Echo, County Life,* and *Times*. Chad Ingram will take over as editor in Minden and Mike Baker will become the editor in Haliburton, also overseeing *County Life*. I wish them all the best as they take these papers to new and exciting places.

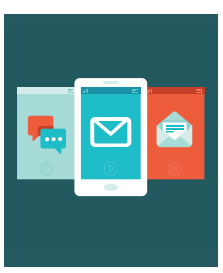
Thank you to the readers, the community, and the wonderful newspaper team I work with. It has been an honour to hold this position and one that I will never forget.

Top 10 ways different thumbs affected Neanderthals

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

RECENTLY, A NEWS story highlighted research that discovered Neanderthals had slightly different thumbs than we do. Mostly, they were angled back more and better suited to holding tools with handles. Here are the top 10 ways I suspect this affected them:

1. Caused them to shy away from thumb wars.
2. Horrible at hitchhiking.
3. Felt silly trying to give two thumbs up.
4. Could never quite grasp their suspenders.
5. Texting not their thing.
6. Even harder time opening vegetable baggies at supermarket.
7. Mitten knitting patterns far more complicated.
8. Sucked at PlayStation One.
9. Got in the way of good chicken dancing.
10. Made them look undecided when giving a thumbs down.



Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?

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Storied times

SHARON LYNCH
Columnist

MONIKA LOVED her job. It was 1981 and the T. Eaton Company was still an iconic Canadian retail business. There were stores across the country, some big and others less so. Monika worked in the lingerie department of one of these. Lingerie was located across the aisle from young fashions and beside accessories. Accessories consisted of purses, gloves and scarves.

Lingerie carried a variety of items. From woolen undershirts and flannel pajamas to gossamer-like extravagances, Monika sold them all. And the customers were just as varied. Over-endowed women came to pick up their custom-ordered bras. Elderly ladies bought the same practical underwear they had been wearing for decades and pretty young things selected whatever was skimpy and pretty, preferably with lace.

The men were the most fun and there were basically two types. There were those who fingered the silky, colourful clothing and then asked Monika if they were available in extra large sizes. And the nervous guys who weren't sure where to look or what items were named. These were the ones buying for a wife or girlfriend and looked a bit uncomfortable surrounded by so much "intimate apparel."

Monika was one of three other salespeople in lingerie. In those days customer service actually existed in these stores and it was a rewarding experience for both shopper and sales clerk. Monika prided herself on not merely ringing up a sale but rather in helping people find what they were looking for and sharing her product knowledge. Certainly there were days when she felt run off her feet – especially as Christmas drew closer – but most of the time she looked forward to doing her shift and dealing with the public.

Christmas at Eaton's was a magical affair. It began right after Halloween. Overnight the store was transformed into a sparkling, colourful refuge from nasty weather and worries. Oversized arrangements of greenery and tinsel welcomed visitors at the entrance, then re-appeared throughout the building. Serious-faced, three foot tall nutcrackers stood at attention beside the escalators and stylized angels floated above the cosmetics section. And unlike some others, Monika never grew tired of the Christmas music heard throughout the store. Even *The Little Drummer Boy* never played for Monika.

Anna was the manager of young fashions. A stocky, exuberant Italian, she bustled around her department straightening displays and adjusting hangers when she wasn't chatting with shoppers. Anna was the epitome of the soft, friendly sell. During the holiday season she brought Italian bakery treats to share with Monika and company in lingerie.

Marie in accessories was an older woman who sported a different scarf each day, making Monika think she was probably her own best customer, employee-discount being ever so helpful. It was Marie's skills that often resulted in a lucky woman walking away from Marie's department with a matching purse, scarf and fine leather gloves. Men also enjoyed helpful suggestions from her during December so that one could almost hear their sighs of relief as they handed over their money. One less Christmas worry for them.

Like many of the store employees, Monika had started working there for the Christmas season. But unlike most, she had stayed on after the holidays. She enjoyed being surrounded by the beautiful merchandise and the co-workers who sometimes felt almost like family. Monika was on her own and this comradery helped get her through what could be a difficult time. When she stepped into the store, greeted by the magical décor and festive atmosphere, her spirits would lift as she anticipated what that day might bring.

Each December as Christmas rolled around, Monika would think back to her days at Eaton's. True, her life had changed greatly since then. The wolf was no longer at her door. And there was no longer an Eaton's for her or anyone else. Even after she left her employment there, she'd return each year to shop a little but mostly take in the sights and sounds of the season.

These days if you were to ask her what past Christmas gifts stood out in her memory, she wouldn't be able to recall any. But ask her about Eaton's and the words come tumbling out. For Monika, it wasn't about the presents, it was about the people and the feelings around that time of year. Those she never forgot.

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The Dysart et al Fire Department staff put up the 2020 Emmerson Christmas tree and added the Christmas lights. It is located in the Village Barn Square by vanLieshout Royal LePage Brokers.

Photo provided by the Haliburton County Echo

Photo provided by The Highlander

THE HALIBURTON LIONS AND THE HALIBURTON BIA ARE INVITING OUR CHILDREN TO HELP DECORATE OUR TOWN TREE

Hey Kids! Come and help make the Haliburton Christmas tree more festive by putting your own decoration on the tree.

What a great way to enjoy the holidays. You can also stop by a local store to pick up a special Christmas present for someone this year.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Haliburton's Christmas tree is unloaded by Haliburton Fire Department volunteers from the bed of an Emmerson Lumber truck on Sunday, Nov. 22. The tree, once erected in town, stands about 30 feet tall. / JENN WATT Staff

Patients asked to take minor health issues to primary care providers first

Although COVID-19 numbers are low in Haliburton County, residents with minor health issues are being asked to continue to contact their primary care providers first, to lessen demand on local hospitals.

Requests such as medication renewal can be completed with a family doctor or nurse practitioner, often over the phone, said Dr. Norm Bottum of the Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team.

"We are experiencing patients from the GTA going to ER to get medication renewals," he said via email. "They can utilize their own MD and if they are organized they can make sure they have a fax number for the local pharmacy they are using handy to make it easier for their MD."

The emergency departments locally are busy, he said, "and given COVID protocols will be significantly pushed to keep up with the usual winter demand if it is significantly busier than usual."

Weekly drive-in flu shot clinics are available at the Haliburton medical clinic for patients. They must be booked through the office 705-457-1212.

Staff

25th Annual Christmas Challenge

Join the Challenge and help us to make a difference

This year is going to be a challenge for everyone as we adapt to the Covid-19 protocols.

Even though you will likely not be having your annual staff party you can still be a part of The Haliburton County Home Builders' Christmas Challenge.

STEP 1:
Call in advance to the Home Builders Office 457-6901, Members of the Home Builders Association will pick up your gifts and deliver them to the workshops in Haliburton, Minden & Wilberforce. Porch pick up & delivery will be available for all.

Large or small, each gift will help fill the much-needed Christmas hampers distributed by the 4C's in Haliburton, Minden Community Food Bank and The Central Food Network.

STEP 2:
Collect unwrapped toys or food items at your home or office.

Haliburton County
Home Builders Association

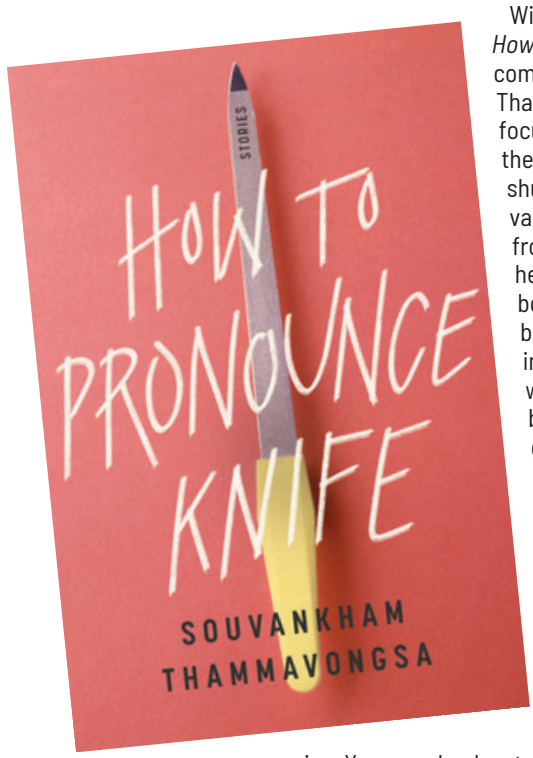
REMEMBER to make the most of the Challenge have your gifts ready for pick up BEFORE December 10th. Early delivery to the *workshops* means the elves have enough time to prepare for gifts for Covid and Christmas.

This is the ***25th anniversary of the Christmas Challenge.*** Whether this is the first year you have taken the challenge or the 25th year all gifts are needed. If you aren't sure what to collect simply gather local gift certificates.

A value of $15.00 each makes it easy to top up gifts for families who have teenagers.

Call 705-457-6901 for more information and to book your gift pick up.

Book of the month December



Winner of the Scotiabank Giller award, *How to Pronounce Knife* is a short story compilation by debut author Souvankham Thammavongsa. Each poignant story focuses on characters struggling to find their bearings in unfamiliar territory, or shuttling between idioms, cultures, and values. A young girl brings a book home from school and asks her father to help her pronounce a tricky word. A failed boxer discovers what it truly means to be a champion when he starts painting nails at his sister's salon. A young woman tries to discern the invisible but immutable social hierarchies at a chicken processing plant. A mother coaches her daughter in the challenging art of worm harvesting. Simple exchanges, but with unforgettable consequences.

In a taut, visceral prose style that establishes her as one of the most striking and assured voices of her generation, Thammavongsa interrogates what it means to make a living, to work, and to create meaning. You can check out a copy of *How to Pronounce Knife* from the Haliburton County Public Library.

Silence

Silence rising from the marsh, a membrane of
ice muting Sky,
puddles of water flooding the trail, reflecting tufts
of cloud and wisps of Sky,
light polishing the puddles, their sheen brightening
my way,
as I peer at the steel strips of Sky stretching
across the horizon,
the bottom layer bleached white, leaking light onto
the path after bursts of Rain.
I pause at the slab of granite bench to rest,
tracing the striations on the stone, feeling the cold
that's coming, in my bones,
as knives of Wind splinter the stillness in the Air,
slice through the colonies of reeds slumped along
the side of the trail,
their spines crumbled to straw, cattails' heads
exploded open,
dangling from their stalks.
I listen to the brittleness as Wind barrels
through the reeds,
the faint sound of creaking, as spindly trees sway,
like the rusted hinges to a door, that nobody
opens anymore.
I watch as Wind ripples across a puddle, tearing
clouds, shattering Sky,
sliding across the patch of marsh sealed in a thin
skin of ice, unable to pierce its stillness,
the withered faces of leaves plastered against
the film of ice,
like peering through a window that's rarely
washed or wiped.
I stare into the murkiness of the marsh, its silence
undisturbed by these waves of Wind,
a few air bubbles blistering beneath the surface,
wondering whether there are still frogs swimming
and breathing beneath the surface right now,
whether their skin doesn't grow cold, whip-kicking
through all that frozen slime.
I lose track of time, just sitting here, listening to
Wind slither through the yellowed reeds,
watching Sky change, wondering how old this
slab of stone is,
on which I rest, older than the forest of tree bones
springing from the marsh,
older than the hills that surround it, and the streams
that trickle down into Rivers,
that flow into Lakes, maybe even older
than this Wind,
that wanders rootless, through this world,
envying the rocks and boulders their stillness.

Sylvie Kalenda

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Charlotte Gilbert and her mom check out the homemade chocolate ornaments at the Sucré Confectionary booth at the Christmas in the Village event in Minden on Saturday, Nov. 21. Chocolatier Tatyana Antonyan was there to speak to customers about her creations as was her mother-in-law, Minden resident Caroline Bahr.

Elaine Repath serves up hot drinks including hot chocolate, apple cider and coffee to help warm hands and get visitors in the holiday spirit.

Christmas in the Village

Cultural centre volunteer Carolyn Perks was a picture of holiday cheer as she sold baked goods and tickets for hot chocolate and hot apple cider, raising funds for the centre. Although it wasn't possible to have the annual Festival of Trees this year, the Christmas in the Village event at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre Nov. 21 allowed the community to come together and share some holiday spirit safely. /JENN WATT Staff

Join Canada's Lifeline!

Canadian Blood Services

BLOOD DONOR CLINIC

Monday, December 7, 2020

from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m.

APPOINTMENTS ONLY - NO WALKINS

Haliburton Legion

Mountain St. Main Hall

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Canadian Blood Services

blood.ca

Book ahead. Book now.

Shontel, left, and Alex Neville were all smiles - especially Shontel! - as they sold their wares at the Christmas in the Village event. Their whole supply of 64 hot chocolate bombs sold out by noon, but they still had plenty of other items for sale. The Little Miss Crafts A Lot booth will be at the Haliburton Legion on Dec. 5 for their craft fair.

Above, even Santa observes strict social distancing guidelines. Here, the Wu/Bauman families get their photo taken with Santa Claus more than six feet behind. /JENN WATT Staff

Mary Hamilton, left, and granddaughter Teagan Hamilton staff the Elli's Quilts booth at the cultural centre on Saturday. "This was a great idea and we're doing it safely," said Mary. The booth offered handmade items from several members of the family.

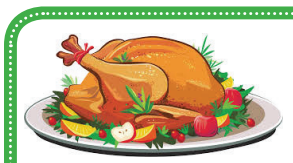
ROTARY COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY

"Drive-Thru" Edition

Saturday December 5th

5:30pm - 7:30pm

- "Drive-Thru" at Curry Chevrolet Service Reception
- Visit SANTA and the ELVES from a distance
- PIZZA SLICES and JUICE BOXES for everyone
- GIFT BAGS for all the kids
- ENTER either by Todd's Independent at the lights or Curry Chevrolet's driveway.



All vehicles visiting Santa will have a Chance to Win 1 of 12 Free Turkeys!

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Thanks for your support of the Community Christmas Party!

Haliburton Rotary

Downtown Haliburton

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This Christmas & Holiday Season

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SHOP LOCAL

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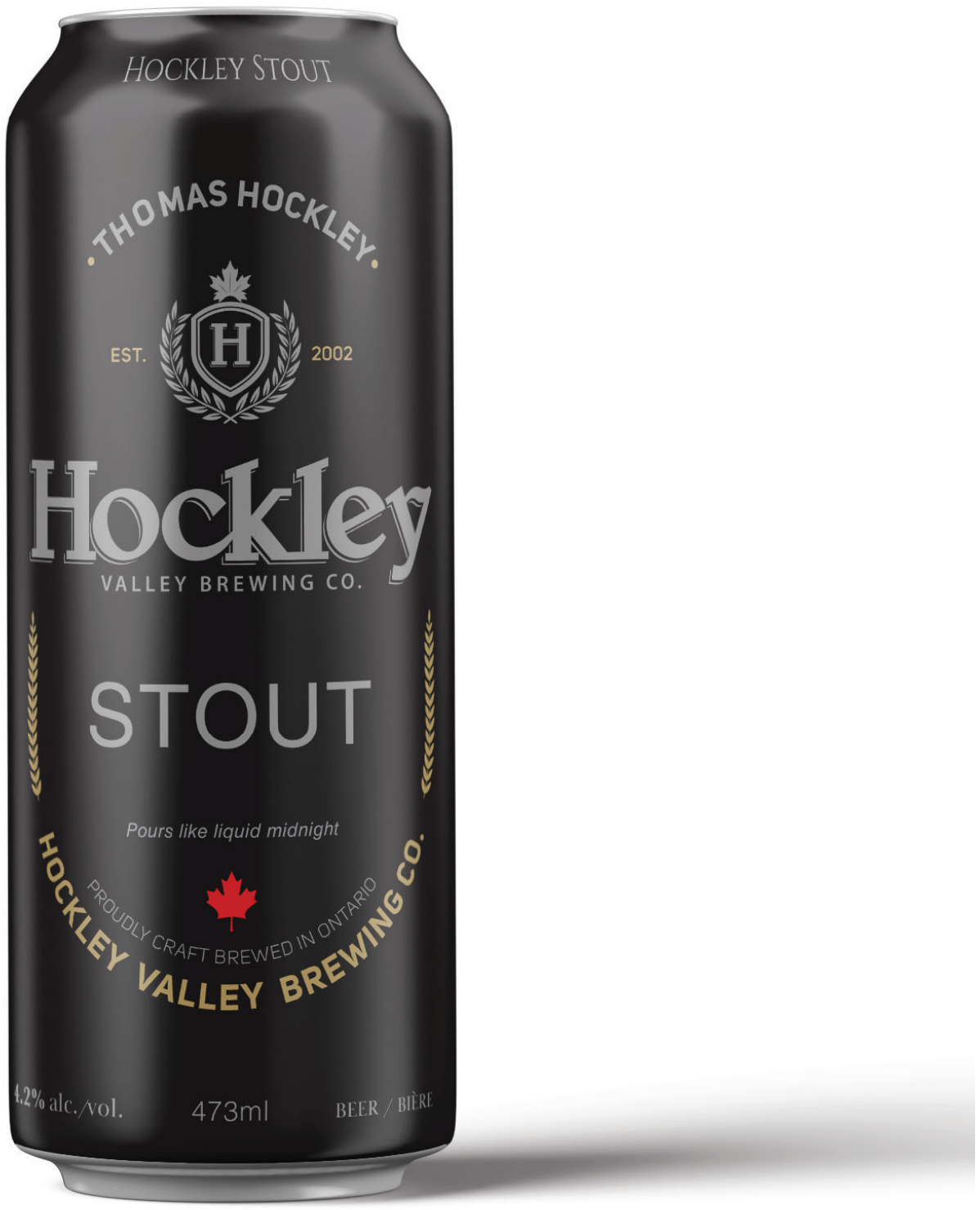
Downtown Haliburton



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CRYPTO FUN

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to poinsettias.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: **11 = O)**

A. **16 11 14 11 1 23 19 14**

Clue: Vibrant

B. **16 3 1 4 20 17 5 16 20**

Clue: December holiday

C. **14 13 15 18 13 20**

Clue: Parts of plants

D. **21 13 16 11 1 15 17 4 11 25 20**

Clue: Home adornments

Answers: A. colorful B. Christmas C. leaves D. decorations

Guess Who?

I am a singer born in England on December 30, 1986. I discovered electronic music while in college. Rihanna is one of my influences and I sang a cover of her song "Only Girl In the World." My debut album reached #1 on the UK charts.

Answer: Ellie Goulding

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www.haliburtonecho.ca

Highlands summer festival 2020 Live Theatre

Welcome to the Highlands Summer Festival Photo Contest

Each month we will be posting a photo from one of the shows we presented over the past two decades. The challenge for you is to identify the show and the year it was presented. There could be additional questions as well, depending on the whims of the contest master. All you have to do is submit your answers to ***contest@highlandssummerfestival.on.ca*** by the 25th of the month. We will select one winner from all the correct entries we received by deadline. The winner will receive two tickets to any of the 2021 season shows because, **YES! there will be a season next year.** A new photo will be posted at the beginning of each month at which time we'll announce the winner of the previous contest. It is as simple as that.

• No entry fee • No tickets to buy • No meetings to attend

….just a nostalgic stroll down our theatrical memory lane and a chance to score some tickets to the 2021 Highlands Summer Festival season.

Perhaps it was the mustache that threw people or the fact the audience was thinking: wasn't he just on stage as Pirate Bill Johnson? But alas no one was able to correctly identify David Mills as mustachioed Allan MacNab, who also appeared as Pirate Bill seen in this picture with Kate Johnson, played by Kathryn Boyd, in the 2005 musical production of The Perilous Pirate's Daughter, written by David Archibald. No winner means the next contest prize has four tickets to give away. So, on to the next photo…..

So ... Good Luck!!!!

Contest #7

We're looking for the name of the show, the year it was presented and the names of the two actors, (either their characters (one played two roles) or their real names), you see here. Bonus points to anyone who can identify which one is about to commit murder.

Send your entry by December 25 to:
contest@highlandssummerfestival.on.ca
Watch for the winner to be announced and the next contest in this location in early January. *Good Luck!!!*

BLACK FRIDAY BLOWOUT!

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2020 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN PREMIUM PLUS Stock #20097
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MSRP $49,501 OUR PRICE $36,499
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2020 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN PREMIUM PLUS
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2020 RAM 2500 TRADESMAN
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4X4 / CUMMINS / 120-INCH / BACKUP CAM / SATELLITE RADIO / SIDE STEPS / REMOTE ENTRY / TOW MIRRORS / BLUETOOTH / 19" STEEL WHEELS!
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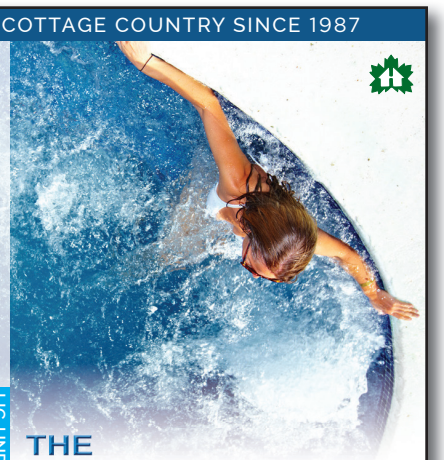

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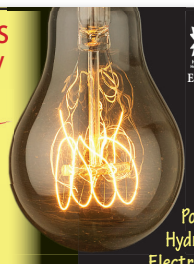

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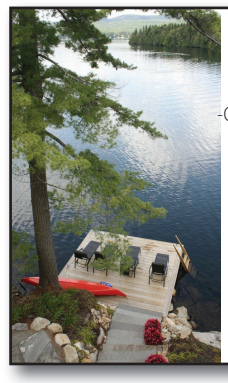

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INSIDE THIS WEEK:

TEST SCORES IMPROVE:
Grade 3, 6 results on provincial testing please Director of Education

ROTARY'S CHANGING FACE:
President Lynda Shadbolt reflects new reality of service clubs

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New Minden health care facility accepts first patients on Tuesday

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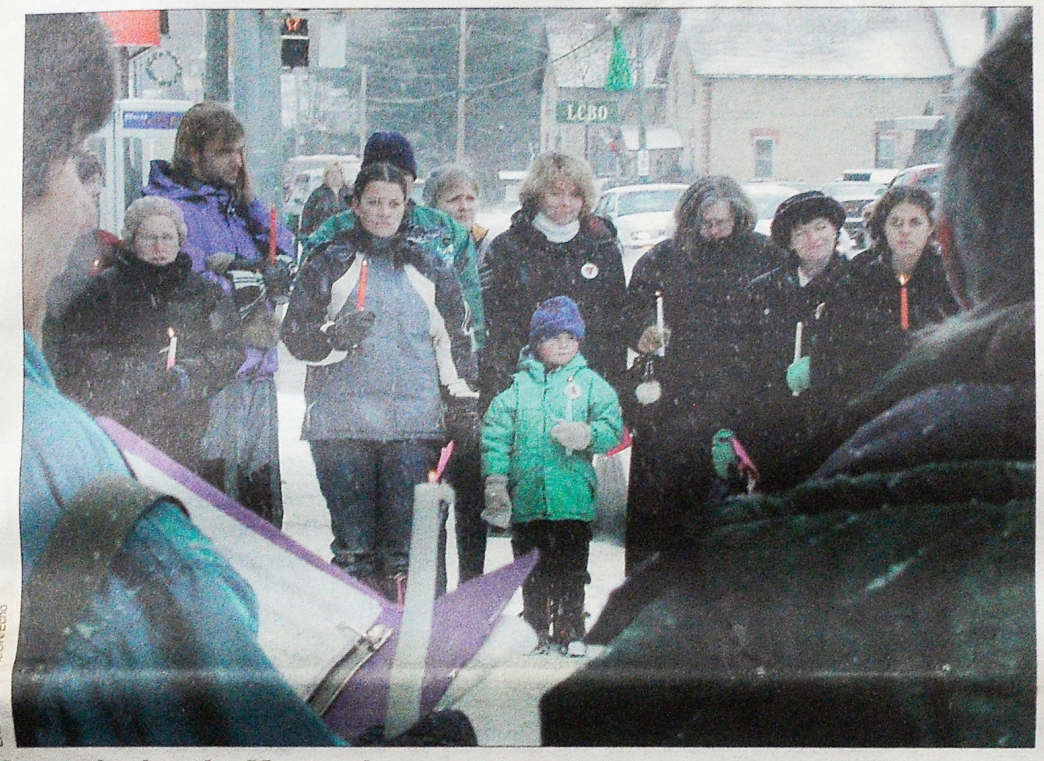

ERIK MARTENSSON/Echo

Remembering the Montreal massacre:
Braving the frigid temperatures and falling snow about 40 women and men gathered at the traffic lights in Haliburton last Wednesday for a candlelight vigil marking the anniversary of the 1989 massacre of 14 women at Montreal's L'École Polytechnique.

Ice fishing will return to Drag Lake in 2002 after 15 years of closure

STEVE GALEA
Special to The Echo

After 15 years of absence, ice anglers will once again be part of Drag Lake's rugged winterscape, starting in 2002.

The 10,000 hectare lake was the subject of a 4-hour presentation and lively discussion at the Haliburton Highlands Outdoor Association Fish Hatchery on Saturday, December 9th. Concerned anglers, Drag Lake property owners, consultants, and Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) staff came to discuss the future of one of the county's largest lakes. By the end, all participants supported the reopening the winter season that had been closed since 1987. Most also agreed on details regulating that season.

The meeting was facilitated by Dana Kinsman, MNR biologist and Chairperson of the Fisheries Management and Planning Subcommittee, and attended by representatives the Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association as well as the Drag Lake Property Owners Association.

Consultant Ruth Grant, of RE Grant and Associates, began by sharing highlights of a background report presented last September to a meeting addressing this issue. The information was gathered from 14 years of open water assessment data and creel and gill net surveys. Significant among the findings was the discovery that the lengthy ice-fishing closure had negligible effect on Drag Lake's resident lake trout population. Increased growth rate, a hoped-for effect of the closure, did not occur. However, angling effort declined significantly during the remaining open water season.

Grant noted that though the big lake has typical lake trout habitat, clean spawning shoals, and good water quality, it has lower than average productivity. The assembly was told that

See **Ice fishing** *page 4*

Property values up six percent on average across the county

ERIK MARTENSSON
Staff Reporter

Overall property values in the Highlands have increased by an average six per cent according to the Province's market value assessment program. Property owners in Haliburton County have recently begun to receive their assessment notices with property values updated to 1999 figures. The new assessments are designed to be an accurate prediction of what the selling price of the property would have been in the summer of 1999.

Waterfront property assessments show biggest jump, up by an average of 11 percent

Values in Dysart et al have climbed just over six per cent, in Stanhope they've soared twelve per cent, Highlands East properties are up about one per cent and the Minden area shows a rise of three per cent.

Dale Lingard, Acting Assessment Commissioner with the Ontario Property Assessment Corporation regional office notes while there has been a substantial rise in the value of waterfront properties of approximately eleven per cent countywide, residential and rural properties without any waterfront have generally retained the same value.

In Dysart waterfront property is up about 12 per cent, in Stanhope it's swelled by 15 per cent, Highlands East shows an increase of 1 per cent and the Minden Area has risen about 3 per cent.

Lingard says the system used to calcu-

See **Tax burdens** *page 4*

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